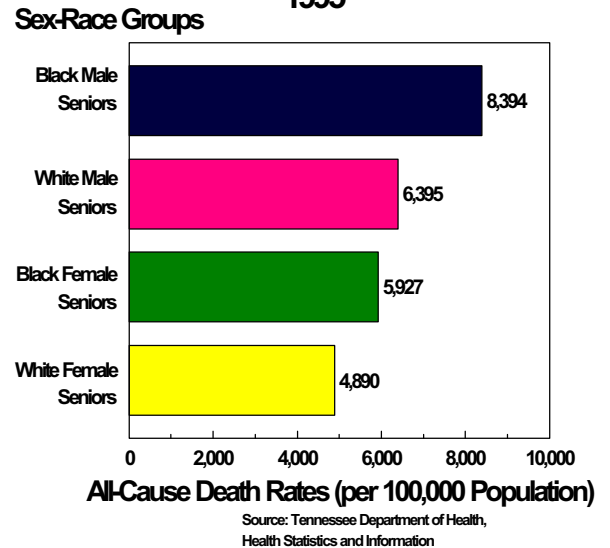


ELDERLY MORTALITY (1995) AND MORBIDITY (1993) IN TENNESSEE

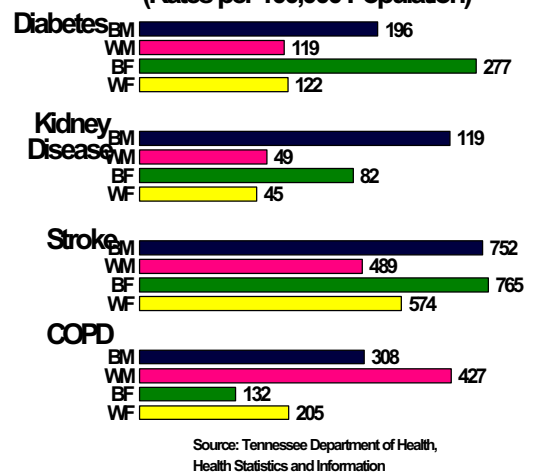
Elderly Mortality in Tennessee in 1995

- In 1995, the leading causes of death among Tennesseans aged 65 years and older (seniors) were **heart disease, cancer and cerebrovascular disease (stroke)**, which together accounted for 2/3 of all senior deaths. **Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** and **pneumonia/influenza** accounted for another 10% of these deaths.
- Death rates among black seniors from all causes combined were 25% higher than for their white counterparts.
- Black male seniors had the highest death rates and white female seniors the lowest of any sex-race groups in 1995.
- White Tennesseans aged 65 and over had 48% higher death rates from COPD than blacks.
- Black seniors had twice the diabetes death rates of white seniors, with marked excess death rates from stroke (CVD) (41% higher), cancer (35% higher), pneumonia and influenza (28% higher) and heart disease (17% higher).
- Diabetes death rates were especially high among black females aged 65 and over compared to other groups, although black male seniors also exhibited higher diabetes death rates than white male seniors.
- Death rates from kidney disease (nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, and nephrosis) were more than twice as high among blacks aged 65 and over compared to whites that age. Black

Death Rates among Tennesseans ages 65 and Over by Race and Sex, for All Causes Combined 1995



Death Rates among Tennesseans 65+ by Race and Sex and Leading Causes of Death, (Rates per 100,000 Population)



Black-to-White Ratios of Leading Causes of Death Rates: Tennessee, 1995

